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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

# INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Poland

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Work proceeds uninterrupted for 365 days, including Sundays and holidays. Individual miners customarily work two out of three consecutive Sundays. There are three shifts of nine hours each, during one three-hour period, generally from 6 a m to 9 a m, the work complement is doubled.

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Shortages of skilled and technically trained personnel are widespread and severe. In order to increase the pool of trained personnel, considerable efforts are made to recruit young men for mining schools. Recruiting drives are particularly frequent in the rural areas of what is now Eastern Poland. To the prospective recruit who feels that he has little opportunity for advancing himself in his home region, promises of life-time careers in a well-paid industry after a study period financed by the Government sound quite attractive. Mining schools, known as Szkola Przysposobienia Przemysłowego (SPP), are established in many cities, especially in Silesia. Most of the students are 16 to 20 years of age. attend courses three days a week and work the other three weekdays. They receive Government stipends for the school training. In addition to mining, the training includes political subjects. The curriculum calls for two years' study. During this period, many students become disillusioned about the mining career under present circumstances and escape back to their homes. In order to fill the ranks of unskilled miners, civilian prisoners are frequently sent to the mines. Only those prisoners serving sentences from one to five years are selected for this purpose; those serving longer sentences are excluded because escapes are relatively easy and presumably frequent. Prisoners are paid one-third the customary wages and use this money to make purchases in stores conveniently located near the mines. "Political" prisoners assigned to work in the mines are housed in special camps.

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Professor Roga is known as a specialist in grading coal. In general, this information is contained in the magazines

The deeper the seams are the better the coal is for coking. The tendency is to dig deeper for coal in Poland, down to three thousand feet. There are gradations between the quality from the West and the East of Poland. On the western end of Poland, there are many strata, very thin, of about half a meter thickness; this coal is generally better suited for the chemical industries. In Eastern Poland, there are only a few strata, but they are relatively thick, up to 16 meters. Brown coal is mined in Lower Silesia and in the area of Kutno (between Poznan and Warsaw). Brown coal is used for power only in the immediate vicinity of brown coal mines. One power station in the southwest corner of Poland (bordering on Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Zone of Germany) uses brown coal and furnishes electricity mostly to Czechoslovakia; many Germans are employed in that area. In September 1951, the Main Institute of Coal succeeded in purifying coal. For this purpose, a special kind of Silesian coal was used which contained about 4.7% of ash. This coal was ground and divided into fractions according to size. The finest fraction was thrown away. Coal of 1-3 mm diameter was the best for this purpose; coal of 3-10 mm diameter was ground further;

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For further separation of pure coal and ash, the coal goes through three or four flotation tables. The result is coal with an admixture of mineral matter of about .6% which is pure enough for use in electrodes and in metallurgy.

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Poland has a number of factories manufacturing mining machinery; one such factory is situated at Katowice. Poland is in a position to produce many general types of machinery and has to lean on Czechoslovakia and the USSR only for imports of special equipment.

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| Battery No 1 | 28 ovens |
| Battery No 2 | 28 ovens |
| Battery No 3 | 48 ovens |
| Battery No 4 | 35 ovens |
| Battery No 5 | 35 ovens |
| | 174 ovens. |

The capacity is 15 tons a day for each oven, which gives the coke plant an approximate maximum capacity of 2,500 tons per day. The actual capacity is 2,300 tons of coke per day, including the fifth battery. Initial burning of the fifth battery was started in October 1951; it was scheduled to be in full operation in 1952. Coal for the coking plant was furnished by mines at (1) Gliwice, (2) Sosnica, and (3) Zabrze Wschod; coal from these three mines was mixed and ground. By-products are

| | |
|---|---|
| ammonium sulphate | - .8% of coal input |
| benzol | - 1% of coal input |
| tar | - 3.5% of coal input. |

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